



“YOU SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE...”

I am the voice of the city, the bringer of tidings, the companion of your fireside hours. I am your friend away from home. I am the prophet of tomorrow, your link with the world beyond your doorstep. I am today's link with history. But most of all, I am the Conscience of America. And I must be heard.

I fired the spirit of another America when I told of lands beyond the frontier. I set ten thousand covered wagons on their sunset Odyssey. I tore the veil from men's eyes and bade them see that their country could not exist half slave and half free.

I have never become “an instrument of government policy.” I have never—as in Russia—been used to blackout the truth. No hidden power has used me, as in Germany, to stifle the kindlier instincts of a whole people, rouse barbaric passions and set feet tramping the long red road. No secret voices made me keep silent, as in France, while a trusting nation died.

I am not infallible. I have your weaknesses for I am of you and by you, but I also have your steadfast strength.

Sometimes I have slumbered, complacent, and then wrongs were done. But I have always awakened. I am the Conscience of America—your conscience—and I will be heard.

I bid you have faith in America. I tell you Democracy is *not* on trial. It is *not* outmoded, worn out, finished. It is still the newest thing on earth; too new even to be fully understood. All else is a throw-back to medievalism, cynicism, despondency and despair.

I bid you read the Declaration of Independence. I tell you to read the Constitution Of The United States and Lincoln's words at Gettysburg.

I tell you the Republic is *not* on trial. It is rather we who are on trial. It is our faith, our courage that is being put to the test and will be put to the test in the years to come. Perhaps, caught in the mesh of social and economic change, we shall give ear to the honeyed voices of the demagogues. Perhaps, softened by ease, corrupted by paternalism, we shall forget truth, tolerance, kindliness, initiative. Maybe we shall forget that while the burden of responsibility always

rests heavy on the shoulders of them willing to bear it, that very willingness makes those shoulders stronger. Perhaps we shall decide that Democracy is not for us, that we are not ready for it.

I don't think so. For I am America's Conscience and I have faith in America's destiny. I know that as long as I am free to speak, America will listen. I must not be silenced, for when you silence me you silence your own heart. I must not be enslaved, for when you enslave me you are alone, cut off from reality, abandoned by truth, at the bottom of a black pit of horror and fantasy. Gag me and your children will never know the America you have known. Keep me free and you will be free.

I look insignificant enough on your doorstep, yet I am your link of understanding with a changing world. I am a passing, ephemeral thing, born and dying every day. Yet I am one of the foundations of the Republic. I am the Conscience of America. I am beholden to no one. I tell you the truth. And you trust me.

I am the free press of America. I am your newspaper

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